

Essay Writing Overview

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| <p>The Introduction or Introductory paragraph:</p> | <p>Open with a generalized sentence introducing the book/film to give an overview of what it is you are discussing.</p> <p>Then state your contention clearly. A contention is a clear statement of your point of view based on the topic – it can be the topic, simply reworded.</p> <p>Then state your three topics/claims (the three first sentences of the body paragraphs) and include a concluding sentence.</p> |
| <p>Body Paragraph 1:</p> | <p>T Topic Sentence – What is the main point of your paragraph? This sentence should represent your main idea. When read on their own, the topic sentence of each paragraph should be able to give the reader a clear idea of what your essay is about.</p> <p>E Explanation - Why is your point important? You need to explain your idea further and link with the evidence provided so that it is not dismissed by your reader.</p> <p>E Evidence - What is your evidence? Without evidence you will be simply relying on your opinion. Evidence could be a quote or reference to a key scene which reinforce the ideas found in your topic sentence.</p> <p>L Concluding/Linking - How does this relate to the main topic/contention? To help you stay on track, always relate your paragraph back to the main topic/contention. You can do this by using key words or referring back to the question/statement assigned.</p> |

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| <p>Body Paragraph 2:</p> | <p>T Topic Sentence – What is the main point of your paragraph? This sentence should represent your main idea. When read on their own, the topic sentence of each paragraph should be able to give the reader a clear idea of what your essay is about.</p> <p>E Explanation - Why is your point important? You need to explain your idea further and link with the evidence provided so that it is not dismissed by your reader.</p> <p>E Evidence - What is your evidence? Without evidence you will be simply relying on your opinion. Evidence could be a quote or reference to a key scene which reinforce the ideas found in your topic sentence.</p> <p>L Concluding/Linking - How does this relate to the main topic/contention? To help you stay on track, always relate your paragraph back to the main topic/contention. You can do this by using key words or referring back to the question/statement assigned.</p> |
| <p>Body Paragraph 3:</p> | <p>T Topic Sentence – What is the main point of your paragraph? This sentence should represent your main idea. When read on their own, the topic sentence of each paragraph should be able to give the reader a clear idea of what your essay is about.</p> <p>E Explanation - Why is your point important? You need to explain your idea further and link with the evidence provided so that it is not dismissed by your reader.</p> <p>E Evidence - What is your evidence? Without evidence you will be simply relying on your opinion. Evidence could be a quote or reference to a key scene which reinforce the ideas found in your topic sentence.</p> <p>L Concluding/Linking - How does this relate to the</p> |

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| | main topic/contention? To help you stay on track, always relate your paragraph back to the main topic/contention. You can do this by using key words or referring back to the question/statement assigned. |
| The Conclusion or Concluding paragraph: | <p>Reword the opening sentence/contention found in the introduction.</p> <p>Reword the three claims – confirm the main arguments you have made and how they relate to the contention.</p> <p>Use a suitable quote/idea to finish and to tie up your main line of argument.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEVER introduce a new idea here!</p> |

In all paragraphs:

Start broad with your topic sentence/claim, and then provide more specific information with your explanation and examples.

Claims should always be **firmly** linked to contention/essay question.

Stick to one topic per paragraph only.

Syntax/Language

Always use past tense when discussing a book/film etc, and stay in the same tense.

Sentences should flow on from one another - link ideas together in a logical way, use commas/semicolons to separate your discussion of different thoughts on the same topic.

Don't use brackets or 'etc' – just write a sentence that fully explains what you mean.

This is the lazy way!!!

Sentences must be complete – subject, verb, predicate – read your writing aloud and you will hear that it doesn't make sense.

Use a thesaurus to expand your vocabulary – 'good' and 'nice' or 'bad' and 'mean' are no longer acceptable words to describe characters – what motivates them and how are they complex?

Spelling errors should be eliminated or at least minimised.

Vocabulary – time to challenge yourself: are there simple words that can be replaced with more complex ones? Look up alternative ways to describe things in the thesaurus.